

# St John's Walworth Primary School

## Monthly Newsletter - October 2018

*Dear St John's,*

We have had a very busy and productive start to the school year at St John's. Please read on to see some of our news and some dates of future events for your diaries.

### **Improved Punctuality**

Thank you to all parents and carers who have brought their children to school on time this half term. We have noticed a significant improvement in punctuality. Now that most children are arriving on time the first lesson of the day is less disrupted for all children. However, some children are still arriving late. Please remember that your child/children must arrive at school by 8.55am each day when the bell rings. The gates will be closed promptly at 9am. Children who arrive after this time will be marked as late.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Meetings with your child's teacher will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. Each appointment will last for 10 minutes. Appointments can be booked from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October, by either calling or visiting the school's office. Alternatively please speak directly to your child's teacher at the end of the school day. These will be the first report meetings this year, so we urge you attend so that your partnership with teachers is established and insights about your child's learning are shared from the beginning of the academic year.

### **New members of Staff**

We are pleased to **welcome** some new members of staff to our school, who have either joined us already or will be joining us over the next half term:  
Ms Felicia Oben is our new Year 5 teacher.  
Ms Samantha Kavanagh, Ms Claire Tillman and Ms Sarah Stevens have joined our lunchtime team.  
Ms Cheryl Hornby joins Year 4 as a Teaching Assistant.  
Ms Vernessa Bennet joins Year 3 as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant.

### **Party Bags and Birthday Cakes**

As part of our endeavour to become a 'healthy school' we have decided to ask parents/carers who would like their child/children to celebrate their birthday at school, to send pieces of fruit for the children to share, instead of cakes and sweets. We recognise that this is a change to our school's policy, but we hope that we can depend upon your support in this matter.

### **Ofsted Report**

We are working hard to make the improvements that were outlined in our recent Ofsted report. I would like to thank all of the parents who have shared their support and who have noticed the changes that have already taken place. Please find a copy of the report on the school's website, alternatively, if you don't have access to the internet, please ask at the school's office for a paper copy.

### **'Progressive Sports' Coach**

As part of our drive towards improvement we have employed a sports coach, who will work alongside the teachers to improve PE teaching. PE lessons with the coach will take place on Thursdays and a new PE coordinator will be working at St John's on Mondays. Their coordinated efforts will make PE lessons more challenging for children helping them to develop their skills.

### **New iPads**

The school has purchased new iPads so that all of the children in the school can develop their IT skills. The iPads will be ready to use directly after the half term and will compliment teaching and enable children to develop skills which will enhance their learning.

### **Reception Classroom Development**

Our new Reception classroom and outdoor space will be completed (we are assured!) and ready to be occupied by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018. This is an exciting new opportunity for the school and another sign of the progress that we are all committed to seeing at St John's.

### **International Primary Curriculum (IPC)**

From next half term the school will be using the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) to teach all subjects other than Mathematics and English. Having a curriculum that ties together all subjects and coherently and progressively develops skills and knowledge will enhance the teaching and learning at St John's.

### **Mobile Phones**

If your child is in Year Six, and because they are travelling to school alone you have provided them with a mobile phone, please instruct them to hand their phone in to the office when they arrive each morning and collect it at the end of each school day. Some children are currently keeping their phones and secretly using them at lunchtime. We would like to trust the children. Thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.

### **School Choir**

This Tuesday after school Laura Inskip our specialist music teacher held auditions for our new school choir. The successful children will now rehearse in school from 3.20pm until 4.20pm every Tuesday afternoon. Letters will be sent out to children's families if they were selected. We look forward to hearing them sing in December in their first public appearances in our Christmas assemblies.

### **Reading Support Volunteers**

We are looking for parents who are available to listen to children read on a regular basis, during the afternoon session of the school day. If you have a regular time in the afternoon each week when you could come and work with a child then please ask at the school office for a volunteer's application.

### **Reporting Absences – Home Visits**

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please ensure that you contact the school office **before 9.00am**, on 020 7703 4920. We have a legal duty to identify where your child is on school days so if you do not contact us, and we cannot contact you via the telephone then we are legally obliged to make a home-visit to ensure that your child is safe.

### **Absence Requests**

We are very proud to have amongst the best attendance rates in Southwark at 97%. Attendance is fundamental to children's success at school; the more that children attend the more opportunity we have to support their learning. However, if it is absolutely necessary that you take your child to an appointment please ensure that you complete an absence request form at your earliest convenience, before the date of the appointment. Forms are available in the school's office.

### **Union Bancaire Privée**

We would like to thank Danny Child and his team for their generous assistance. Danny is a manager at the Swiss Bank 'Union Bancaire Privée', he and his colleagues are coming to St John's next Friday to decorate the upstairs of the Portacabin and to help organise our resources room. They have also donated £200 to the school to enable us to purchase protective iPad cases. The bank has a scheme to provide support to the wider community and we appreciate being the beneficiaries of their time and funds. The newly decorated and organised room in the Portacabin will be used to run intervention groups for children across the school.

### **School Ambassadors**

Congratulations to our newly appointed Year Six ambassadors: Rebecca, Taya, Honey-Bea, Olajoju, Mirza, Tyrese, Jidda, Temitayo and Benaiah. These children have been selected as role models for the whole of the autumn term. They have been playing with KS1 children and will be asked to carry out duties and responsibilities across the school.

### **New Behaviour for Learning Policy**

Next half term on the 7<sup>th</sup> November (8.30am-9.00am and 3.30pm – 4.00pm) all parents/carers are invited to a meeting where our new behaviour for learning policy will be presented. At this meeting you will have an opportunity to hear about the details of the policy, to ask questions and raise any concerns that you have before the policy is adopted. The policy is being presented to our reconstituted board of governors on the 29<sup>th</sup> October. The names of our new governors will be posted on our website in due course.

### **After School Drama Club**

We are in the process of introducing new after school clubs, which we hope will enrich the children's lives by providing them with school based extra-curricular activities. Our first **drama club**, will be held on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November**. The club is open to a total of twenty Year 5 and 6 children. The cost will be £3 per session. Two workshops will be run on the 5<sup>th</sup> November during school time to give the children a taster session. If you would like your child to take part in this club please register your interest with the school's office.

Details of additional clubs will be advertised next half term as they become available.

*Thank you for reading some of our news. We hope that you have a restful half term break and enjoy the time you spend with your children. We will return on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October.*

*Matthew Velada-Billson*

**Head Teacher**